

21.12 Athaliah⁷ Ⓢ; Joash Crowned King (2 Kings 11:1–20; 2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] Brackets indicate a remark to the teacher that will not be read aloud, and they show answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Small poster (from two lessons before) showing Ahab’s children—Athaliah, Ahaziah, and Joram—and Jehoshaphat’s line of Joram and Ahaziah. Point out Athaliah’s being the daughter of Ahab and the wife of Judah’s Joram. Add *Jehosheba* next to Judah’s Ahaziah and under Judah’s Joram, for she is daughter to Joram and sister to Ahaziah.
- (Optional) Ethel Barrett’s rendition of this story in *Which Way to Nineveh* (Gospel Light Publications, pp. 1–11) is worthy of being read to your students. An audio of Mrs. Barrett’s retelling is available for \$5.99 (in 2022) at [Ethel Barrett Tells Bible Stories \(CD #1\) | Homeschool How-Tos](https://www.homeschoolhowtos.com/ethel-barrett-tells-bible-stories-cd-1/) ([homeschoolhowtos.com](https://www.homeschoolhowtos.com)).

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *courses of priests*: According to Matthew Henry, “David had divided the priests into courses, which waited by turns. Every sabbath-day morning a new company came into waiting, but the company of the foregoing week did not go out of waiting till the sabbath evening, so that on the sabbath day, when double service was to be done, there was a double number to do it, both those that were to come in and those that were to go out.”
- *Davidic Covenant*: God had promised David that he would always have a son sitting on the throne of Judah.
- *Temple store rooms*: Show the cut-away picture of the Temple found below and point out the three floors of rooms on the left side of the building. (They would also be on the right side.) These were storerooms where the treasures gotten by kings in battle were kept. Also, priests who were working in the Temple would stay in some of these rooms. ✓ Perhaps the high priest lived at the Temple all of the time.
- *sabbath*: the seventh day of the week, our Saturday, the day God set apart for Israel to worship Him

Scripture: (ESV)

2 Kings 11:1 Now when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. 2 But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the king’s sons who were being put to death, and she put him and his nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. 3 And he remained with her six years, hidden in the house of the Lord, while Athaliah reigned over the land. . . .

2 Chronicles 23:1 But in the seventh year Jehoiada took courage and entered into a covenant with the commanders of hundreds [five men]. . . . 2 And they went about through Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of fathers’ houses of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem. 3 And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God. And Jehoiada said to them, “Behold, the king’s son! Let him reign, as the Lord spoke concerning the sons of David. 4 This is the thing that you shall do: of you priests and Levites who come off duty on the Sabbath, one third shall be gatekeepers, 5 and one third shall be at the king’s house and one third at the Gate of the Foundation. And all the people shall be in the courts of the house of the Lord. 6 Let no one enter the house of the Lord except the priests and ministering Levites. They may enter, for they are holy, but all the people shall keep the charge of the Lord. 7 The Levites shall surround the king, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever enters the house shall be put to death. Be with the

king when he comes in and when he goes out.”

8 The Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men, who were to go off duty on the Sabbath, with those who were to come on duty on the Sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest did not dismiss the divisions. 9 And Jehoiada the priest gave to the captains the spears and the large and small shields that had been King David’s, which were in the house of God. 10 And he set all the people as a guard for the king, every man with his weapon in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, around the altar and the house. 11 Then they brought out the king’s son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king, and Jehoiada and his sons anointed him, and they said, “Long live the king.”

12 When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and praising the king, she went into the house of the Lord to the people. 13 And when she looked, there was the king standing by his pillar at the entrance, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and the singers with their musical instruments leading in the celebration. And Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, “Treason! Treason!” 14 Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the captains who were set over the army, saying to them, “Bring her out between the ranks, and anyone who follows her is to be put to death with the sword.” For the priest said, “Do not put her to death in the house of the Lord.” 15 So they laid hands on her, and she went into the entrance of the horse gate of the king’s house, and they put her to death there.

16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king that they should be the Lord’s people. 17 Then all the people went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images they broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. 18 And Jehoiada posted watchmen for the house of the Lord under the direction of the Levitical priests and the Levites whom David had organized to be in charge of the house of the Lord, to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, as it is written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and with singing, according to the order of David. 19 He stationed the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of the Lord so that no one should enter who was in any way unclean. 20 And he took the captains, the nobles, the governors of the people, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of the Lord, marching through the upper gate to the king’s house. And they set the king on the royal throne. 21 So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword.

Introduction/Review:

Two lessons ago we learned about King Joram of Judah. Because of his wickedness in leading Judah into unfaithfulness and in killing his brothers, Joram lost all his children but one, all his possessions, and all his wives but one. That wife who remained was the wicked Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, who greatly influenced her husband to do evil in Judah just as her wicked father and mother had done in Israel. When her husband died a painful and horrible death, suffering in great agony for two years, no one really cared.

In our last story we learned how Jehu up in Israel fulfilled what God had prophesied; he totally cut off Ahab’s family. Not only did Jehu slay Joram of Israel, Jezebel, and Ahab’s seventy sons, but also did he slay wicked King Ahaziah of Judah, the son of Judah’s corrupt Joram and Athaliah.

Story:

Athaliah, queen

When Athaliah heard that Ahaziah, her son, had been slain by Jehu in Israel, she showed her true heartlessness. It is hard to imagine a grandmother getting rid of her own grandchildren, but Athaliah did just that. She slew everyone who was in line to become king. Joram, her dead husband, probably had had other wives and children by them. It might not have been hard for her to slay them. But her own grandchildren—children of her own children?! How could she be so cruel? Yet, she is an example of any one of us left to ourselves without God. Without God’s help, we can become the worst of sinners. It is only by His grace that we can please Him.

Who do you think became the next ruler of Judah? The answer is . . . Athaliah, not a descendant of David. She became queen of Judah. David was supposed to have the family of kings, but Athaliah had killed off all David's royal line. Or had she?

Jehosheba, wife of the priest

King Joram's daughter and King Ahaziah's sister, was named Jehosheba. [Show poster.] Jehosheba, unlike her father and brother, feared the one true God. In fact, she had married a priest, Jehoiada. When Jehosheba learned of or suspected Athaliah's evil intentions, she stole away one of Ahaziah's sons, Joash, ✓ who was probably just less than a year old. She hid this nephew of hers in a bedroom with his nanny and succeeded in saving his life when all the other grandchildren died. Joash and his nanny stayed hidden at the temple for six years while Athaliah was queen over Judah. ✓ Joash was safe there, for Athaliah never went to the Temple of the true God but to the temple of the false god Baal.

Jehoiada, priest

But when Joash turned seven, Jehoiada carried out his well thought-out plan. He sent for all the commanders over one hundred men (later called centurions), all the Carites, who were body guards, and all the guards. These came to the temple to meet with Jehoiada, who made them swear to keep a very important secret. ✓ "You must swear not to tell a soul what I am about to show you," he said.

"We promise," the crowd of men replied.

Then he brought out the king's son for all to see. "This is Prince Joash, son of Ahaziah. We have hidden him for six years. It is time for him to become king."

✓ Can you imagine the surprise of these men when they saw Joash? They had thought all of David's royal family was dead, but here, standing before their very eyes, was this seven-year-old prince! ✓ They were tired of Athaliah, her wickedness, and her Baal worship. Now hope for a better ruler was possible!

Jehoiada commanded, "This is what you are to do: you who are changing courses this Sabbath day must be guards all around the king and the temple." He told them exactly where to watch. "And," Jehoiada continued, "if anyone approaches your area, put him to death! Stay close to the new King Joash wherever he goes."

On the next Sabbath all the men did just as Jehoiada had instructed. Jehoiada gave each of them weapons, stored in the temple, that had belonged to David. There they were—prepared to guard the king near the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side.

Joash, boy king

Then Jehoiada brought out the king, placed the royal crown² upon his head, and presented him with a copy of the covenant—the scripture which every king was to read. "I present to you King Joash, son of King Ahaziah!" proclaimed Jehoiada as he poured oil upon Joash's head.

The people who saw all of this were ecstatic. They clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king! God save the king! Long live the king!" Trumpeters echoed the chant with their brilliant tones. Oh, what a joyous event! Here was a descendent of David, a new king! "Oh, happy day!"

Athaliah, her death

Athaliah, in the palace, heard shouts and a great commotion in the direction of the Temple. She followed the noise to the temple of the Lord. There she saw all the people rejoicing; the trumpeters blowing trumpets; the people shouting, "God save the king!"

She looked toward the king's pillar of the temple. ✓ "Who is that? A kid? What? Did you say it's Joash with a crown on his head? Can't be. But it is!" [Pause and widen eyes in understanding.] "Treason! Treason!" Athaliah shouted as she tore her royal robes apart. But no one cared.

“Take her away from the temple! She must not be put to death in the temple of the Lord.” ordered Jehoiada.
“Put the sword to anyone who follows her!”

Athaliah ran, but she couldn’t save herself. She got as far as the horse entrance to the palace grounds when the guards caught her and put her to death. The wicked Queen Athaliah was no more.

Jehoiada, covenant-maker

Jehoiada then made a covenant (a solemn promise) with the people that they would be the Lord’s people. What does that mean? It means they would serve God alone and not Athaliah’s false idols.

What would that mean for the worship of Baal? Being the Lord’s people meant that Baal and his house had to go! So all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and slew the priest of Baal in front of the altars.

Then Jehoiada, with the guards surrounding the king, took Joash from the temple to the palace. Joash, a seven-year-old boy, sat on the royal throne,. All the people of the land rejoiced because Athaliah was no longer ruler and because a king from the family of David, as God had promised, now ruled Judah.

¹Perhaps the Carites were mercenaries from a region called Caria in southwest Asia Minor (present-day Turkey) (*Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*, p. 194).

²Judah’s royal crown—made of silver or gold and covered with jewels—was not heavy but was “a flat, thick plate of gold, which was fastened to the king’s soft cloth headdress” (*The Adventure Bible* (NIV), p. 426).

Lessons from This Lesson:

- We see Jesus:
“In token of the people's acceptance of [Joash] and subjection to his government, [the people] clapped their hands for joy, and expressed their hearty good wishes to him: Let the king live. . . . concerning him who came to them as life from the dead and in whom the house of David was to live. With such acclamations of joy and satisfaction must the kingdom of Christ be welcomed into our hearts when his throne is set up there and Satan the usurper is deposed. Hosanna, blessed is he that comes: clap hands, and say, “Let King Jesus live, for ever live and reign, in my soul, and in all the world” ([2 Kings 11 Commentary - Matthew Henry Commentary on the Whole Bible \(Complete\)](#) (biblestudytools.com)).

Activities:

- Play dough: a crown; a royal robe; a boy
- Snack: Cheese crowns. Cut a slice of cheese into a crown shape. Add blueberries or grapes for jewels.
- Reenact the joyful scene at the coronation of Joash with kazoos for trumpets and happy shouting, “Long live the king!”
- Discuss two typical events that took place near the temple pillars. First, was the king’s standing there for his coronation: 2 Kings 11:14—“And when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to the custom.” Second, more than 230 years later, King Josiah “stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book” (2 Kings 23:3).
- Older students, using a calculator and the picture found below of the temple pillars, may figure the size in feet (1.5 x # of cubits) of the height, circumference, and the sections of the capital (the top part, also called chapter) of the pillars in front of the temple. Refer to 1 Kings 7:15–22 for a description.
- Review questions: (Game: On card stock print the letters, *P I L L A R*, found below. Cut into equal

sections. For each correct answer, a student may place a random letter in a pocket chart. If all questions are answered correctly, the students will unscramble the letters. If they need a hint to discover the word, say, “It is something near which Joash stood when he was crowned king.”)

1. Who made herself queen when her son, Ahaziah, died? [Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel.]
2. What despicable thing did Athaliah do? [Destroyed all the royal family.]
3. Who saved Baby Joash from Athaliah’s destruction? [Jehoshaba, Joash’s aunt and wife of the priest.]
4. When Jehoiada, the priest, crowned Joash king, what did the people do? [They clapped their hands and shouted, “Long live the king!” They blew trumpets, and the singers played musical instruments.]
5. When Athaliah saw King Joash beside the pillar of the Temple, what did she do and say? [Tore her clothes and cried, “Treason! Treason!”]
6. After Queen Athaliah died, Jehoiada the priest did three things. Tell one of them. [Made a covenant between himself, all the people, and the king that they should be the Lord’s people; tore down Baal’s temple; set King Joash on the throne.]

Memory Verses: (NKJV) A very nice song book with black-and-white visuals [I water colored mine] and a CD is available as a learning tool at [Psalm 139 - NKJV \(thywordcreations.com\)](http://thywordcreations.com). Learning this psalm may take six months or more. Some people think saying/singing the whole psalm every week is a good way to learn it. The Psalm 139 song book mentioned above breaks after verse 13; therefore, a suggestion is to work on verses 1–13 for thirteen weeks and then the rest of the psalm for an additional eight weeks. Take one or two lessons to say/sing the whole psalm.

- Psalm 139:1–18, 23, 24

¹O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

³You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

⁶*Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot *attain* it.

⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

⁸If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

⁹*If* I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me;

¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.

¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.

¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

¹⁷How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

¹⁸*If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You. . . .

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties;

²⁴And see if *there is any* wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

Handwork:

- Have students color one of the two black-and-white pictures found below.

courses of priests

Davidic Covenant

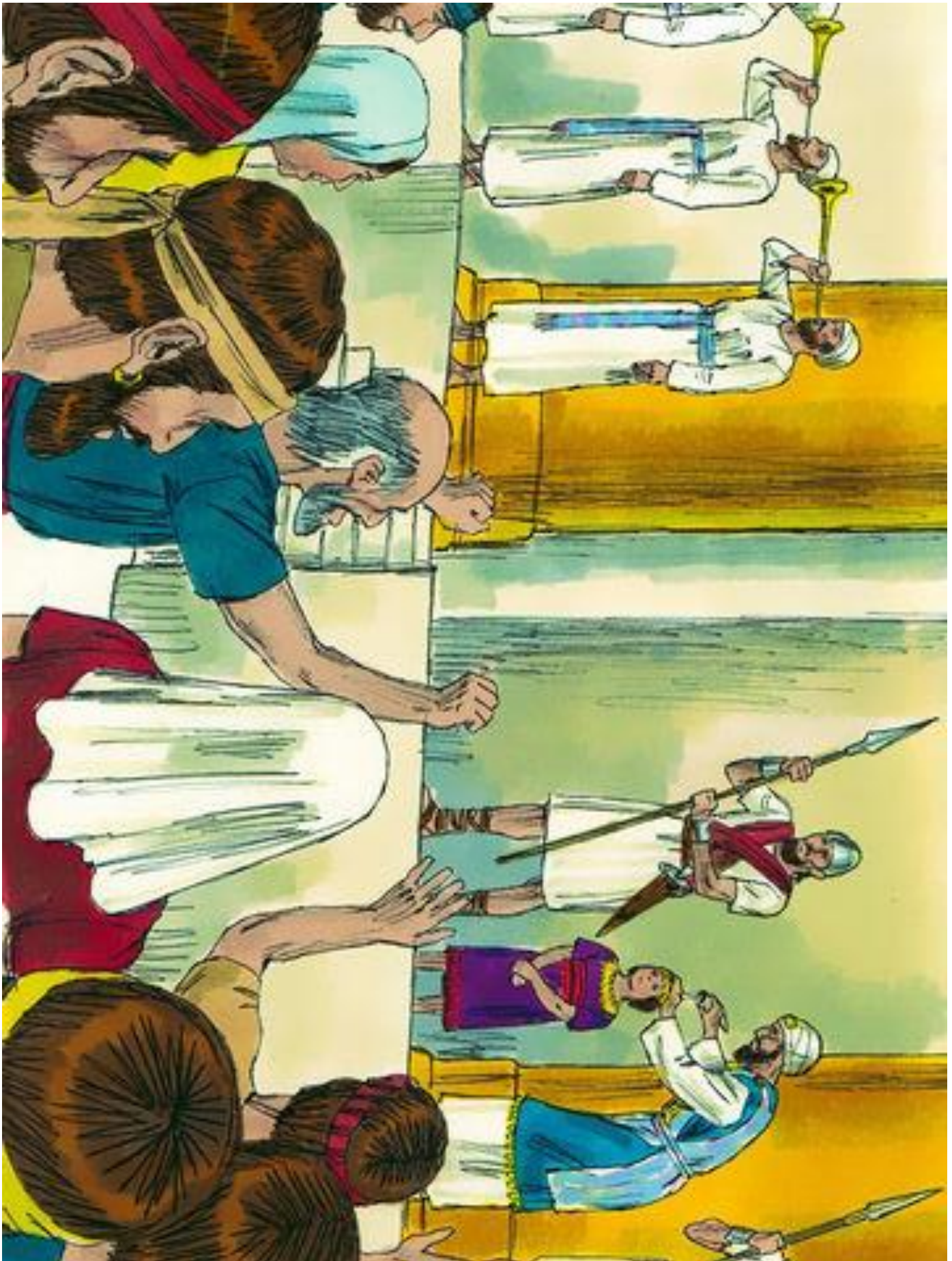
Temple store rooms

sabbath

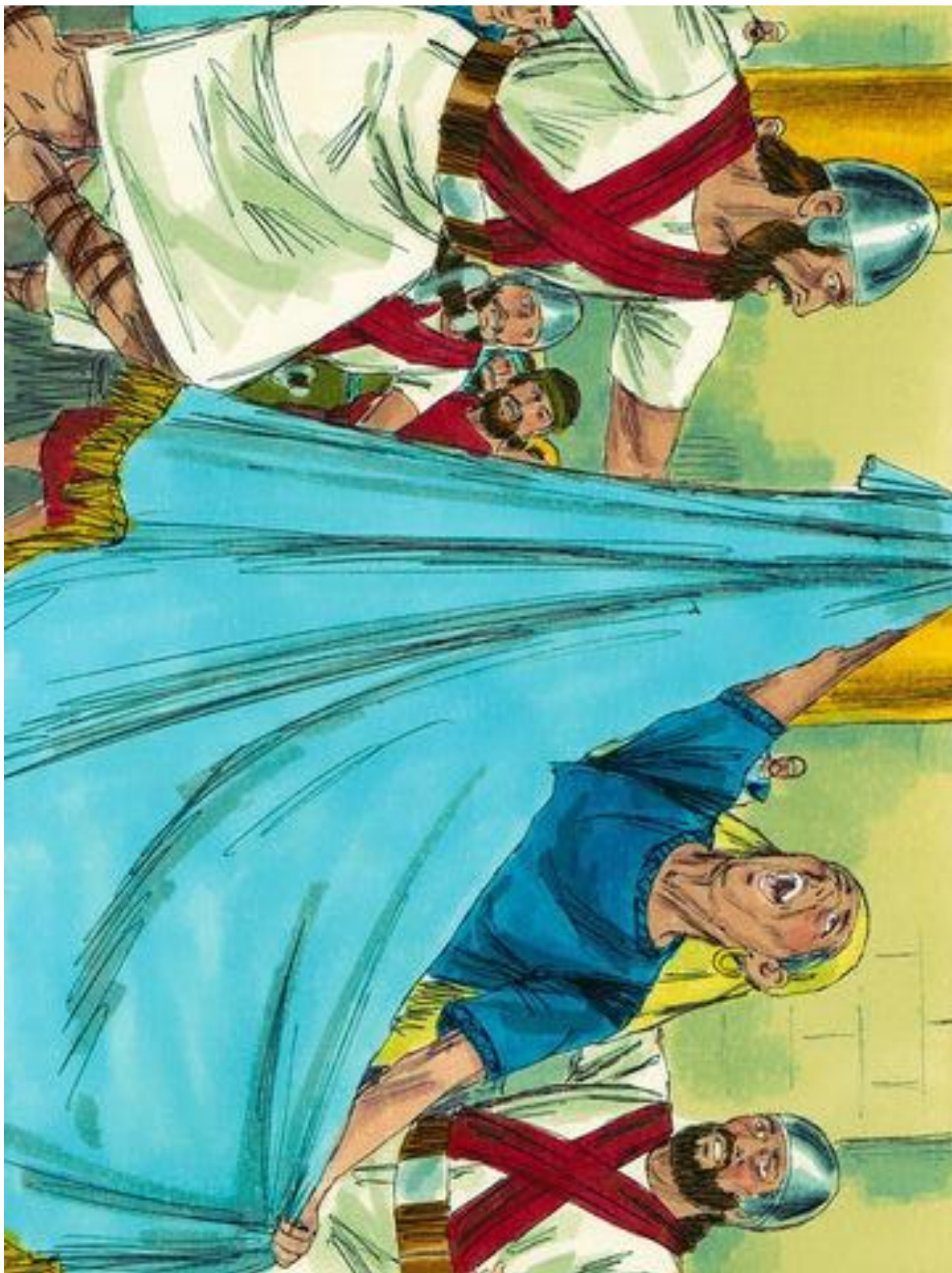




[FreeBibleimages](#) :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest (2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21)



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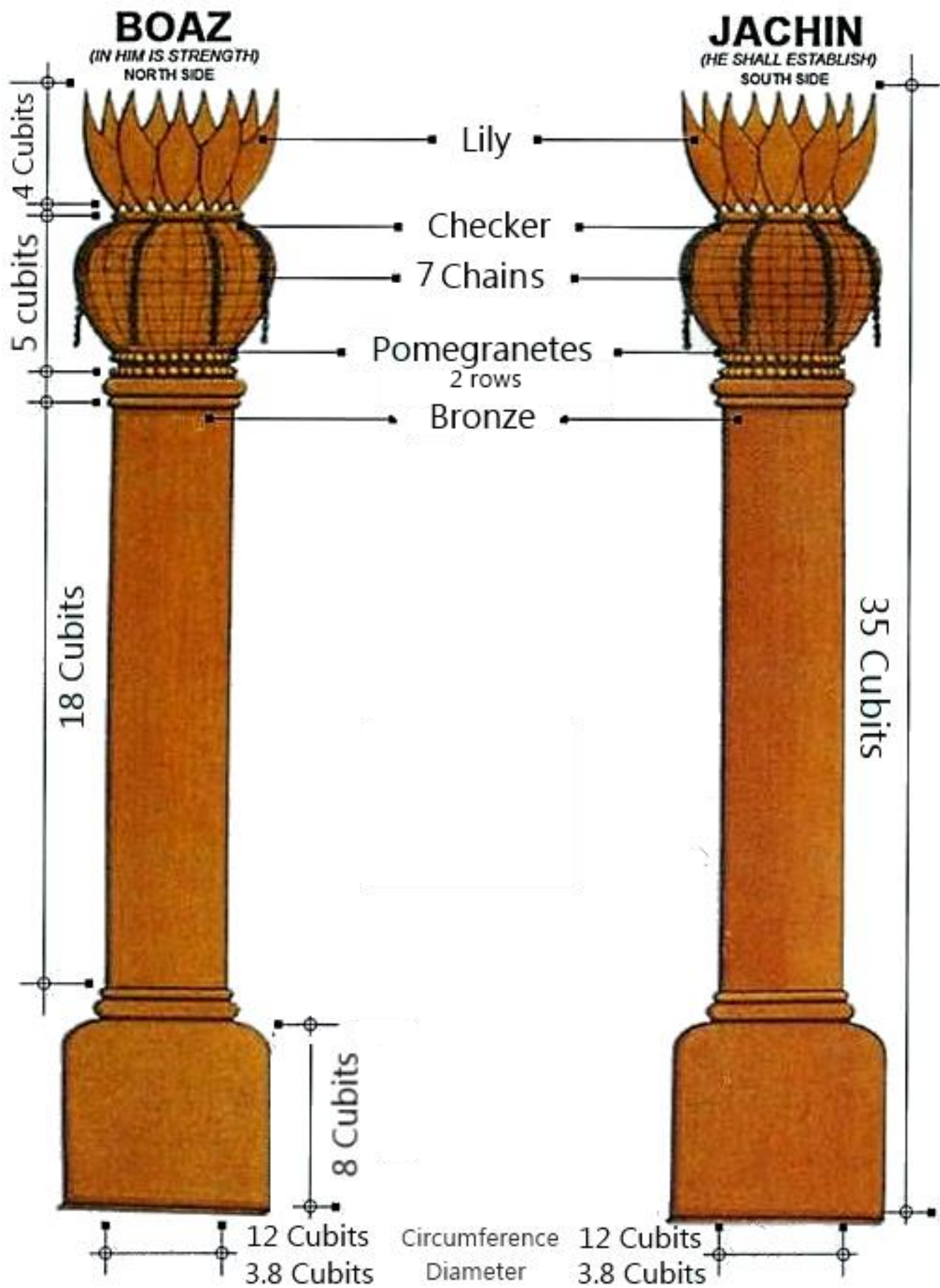
From a Bible story book



[FreeBibleimages](#) :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest (2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21)

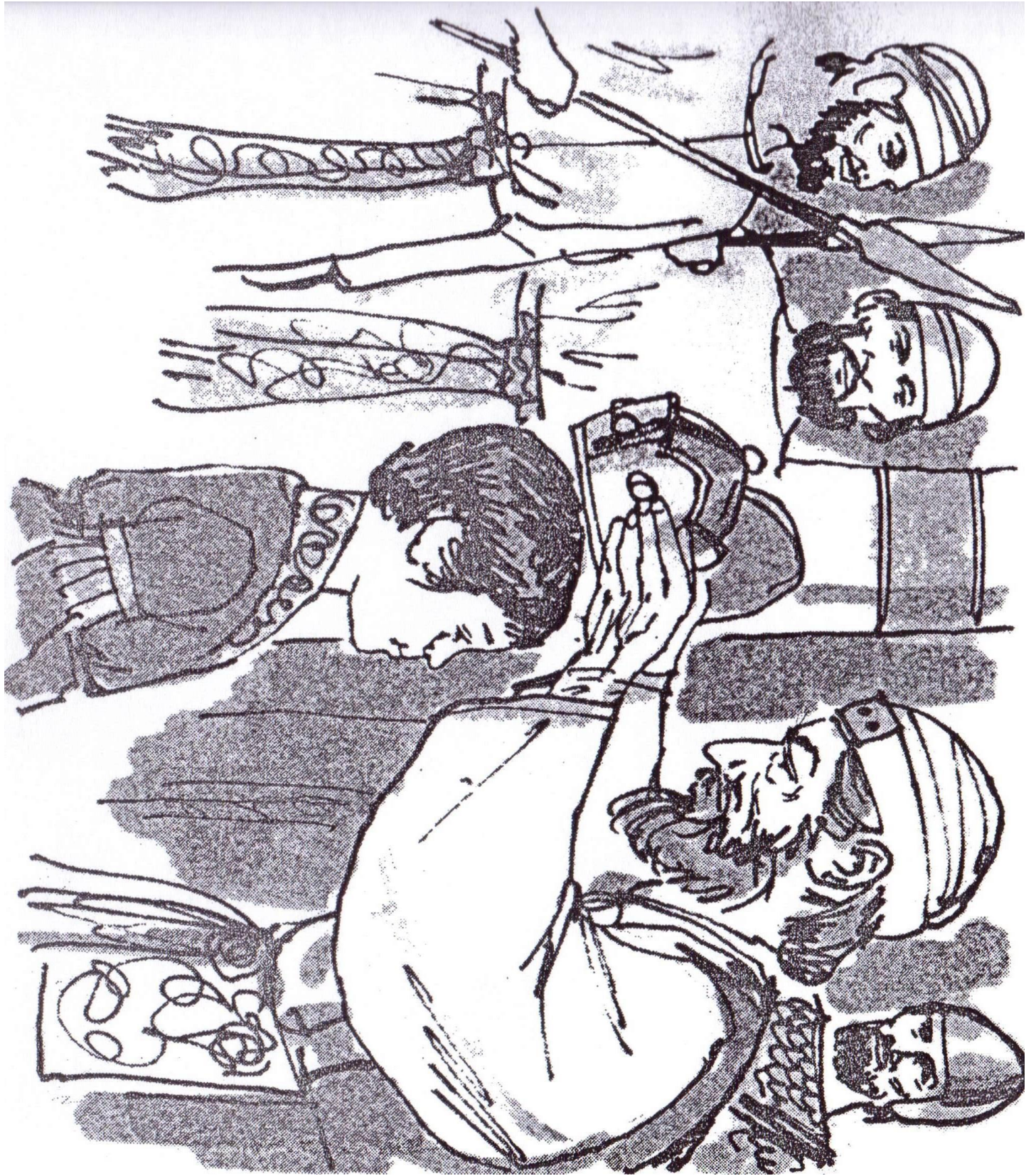


[FreeBibleimages :: Joash the boy king :: Joash becomes king of Judah at the age of seven with the help of Jehoiada the priest \(2 Kings 11:1 - 12:21\)](#)





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