

Lesson 8
The Story of
Murderous Relations

In the previous lesson the story about the singers leading King Jehoshaphat's army is one of the most amazing examples of faith in all of scripture. The story ends by saying,

“So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet: for his God gave him rest round about . . . he walked in the way of Asa his father . . . doing that which was right in the sight of the Lord” (II Chronicles 20:30, 32).



KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

When King Jehoshaphat died
his eldest son,
Jehoram
officially became the sole
King of Judah (II Chronicles 21:1).

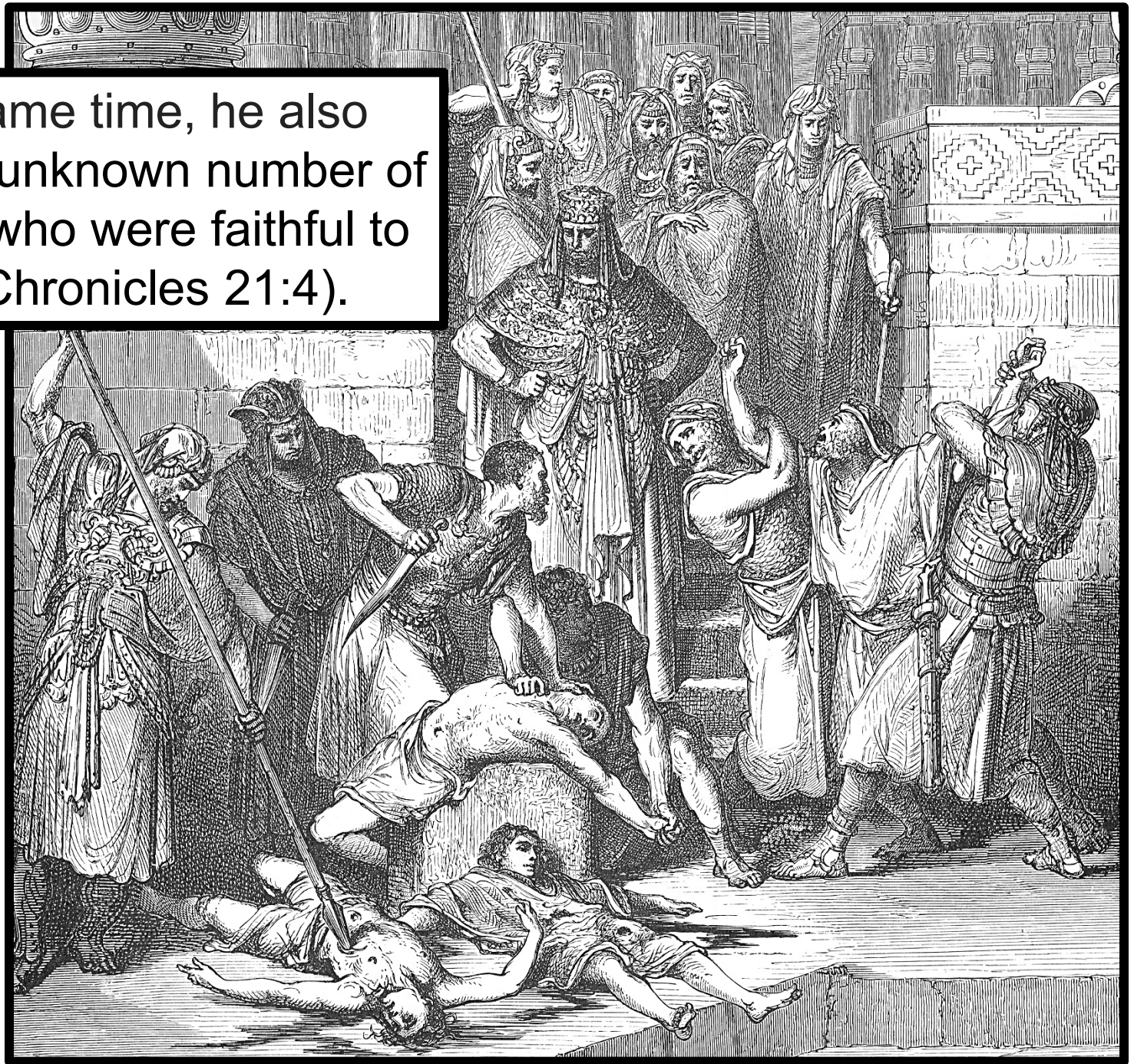


Jehoram had actually been a coregent several years before his father Jehoshaphat's death, so it was evident that Jehoshaphat intended for Jehoram to take the throne.

Yet, Jehoram's first act after the death of his father was to kill his six brothers. Evidently, he saw them as a threat.

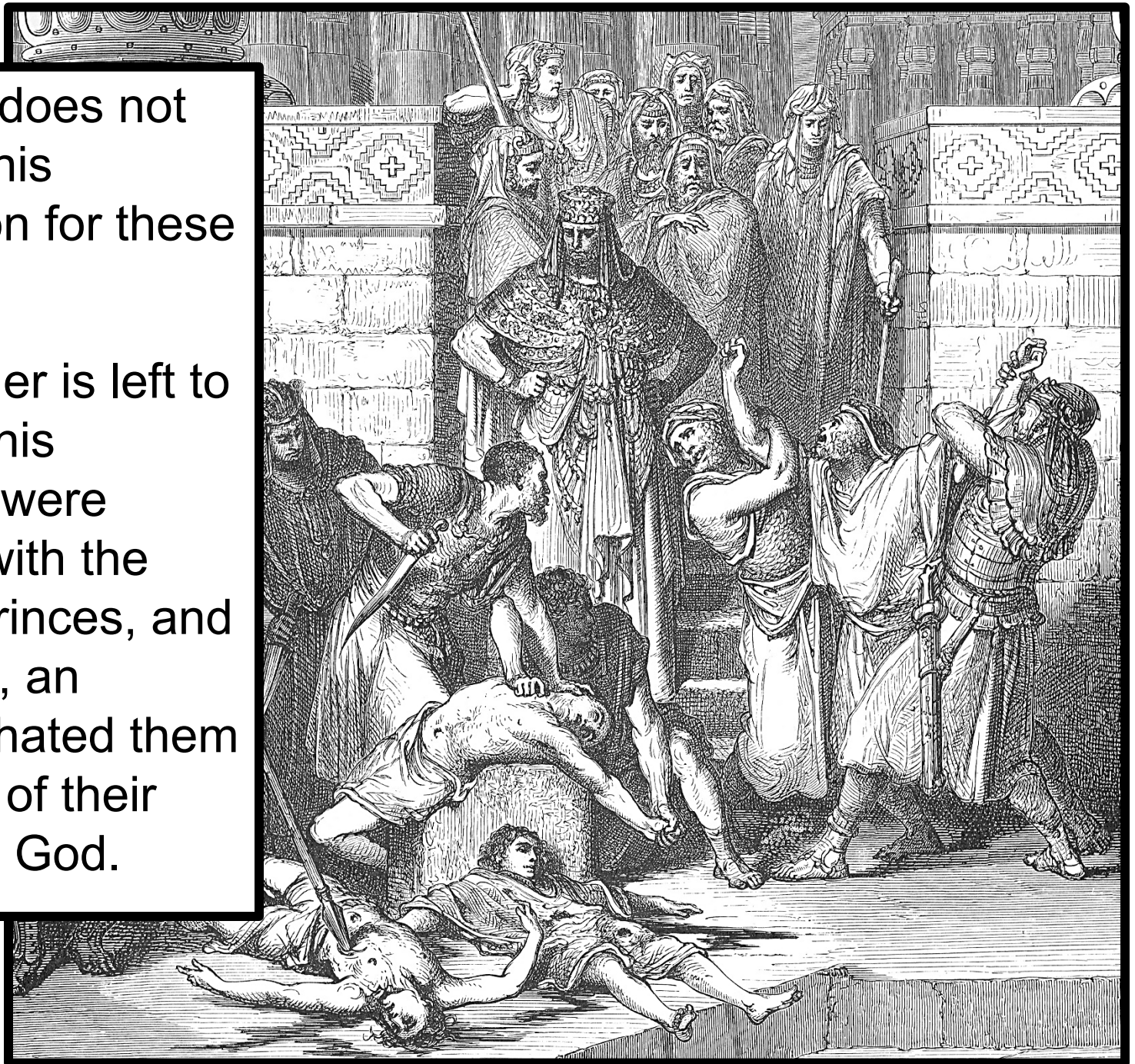


At the same time, he also slew an unknown number of princes who were faithful to God (II Chronicles 21:4).



The text does not indicate his motivation for these murders.

The reader is left to assume his brothers were aligned with the faithful princes, and Jehoram, an idolater, hated them because of their loyalty to God.



Jehoram King of Judah was 32 years old when he began to reign and he was married to wicked **Ahab** and Jezebel's daughter, **Athaliah**.

The text does not indicate it but their marriage may have actually been one of the terms of the alliance between the two nations.

<u>KINGS OF ISRAEL</u>	
Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Joram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoahaz	856-841
Joash	841-825
Jeroboam II	825-784
Zechariah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772-762
Pekahiah	762-760
Pekah	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

<u>KINGS OF JUDAH</u>	
Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-879
Joash	879-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	
Ahaz	Wife of Jehoram
Hezekiah	and daughter of Ahab & Jezebel
Manasseh	
Amos	
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588

NOTE: There were two Kings named Jehoram/Joram—

- **Jehoram/Joram** King of Judah (Jehoshaphat's son and husband of Athaliah).
- **Jehoram/Joram** King of Israel (son of Ahab and Jezebel and brother to Athaliah).

It is confusing because both Jehorams are referred to as Joram and Jehoram, sometimes in the same chapter.

To distinguish them in this lesson we spell the one that was King of Israel . . . **Joram**.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Joram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoahaz	856-841
Joash	841-825
Jeroboam II	825-784
Zechariah	773
Shallum	772
Menahem	772-762
Pekahiah	762-760
Pekah	760-740
Hoshea	730-721

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-879
Joash	879-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amon	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588

Jehoram King of Judah was so wicked that God abandoned him, and II Chronicles 21:17 says that his enemies looted his house and carried off all of his family except for his youngest son, Jehoahaz (usually referred to by the name Ahaziah).



Elijah sent **Jehoram** a letter warning him of God's punishment,

II Chronicles 21:15

“And thou shalt have a great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day”

So, after his reign of eight years King **Jehoram** died a horrible death, and his youngest son, **Ahaziah**, became the next King of Judah.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram

Ahaziah

Athaliah

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Jehoiachin

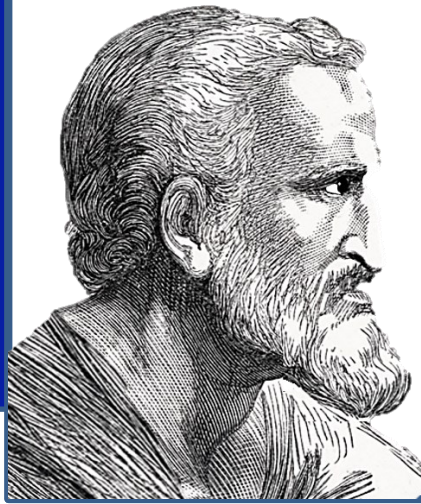
Zedekiah



Ahaziah inherited the throne even though he was King **Jehoram's** youngest son, for his older brothers had been carried off in a Philistine and Arab war (II Chronicles 21:16-17).

He followed the way of the wickedness of his father and of his mother who was the daughter of Israel's King Ahab and his wife Jezebel.





Jehu

Captain in the
Israelite army.

The land of Gilead was a point of contention between Israel and Syria for years.

Joram King of Israel took his army out against **Hazael King of Syria** and made a successful claim of the city of Ramoth in Gilead. But he was wounded and left his captain, **Jehu**, in charge as he went to Jezreel to recover (II Kings 9:15).



Ahaziah King of Judah

joined his uncle

Joram King of Israel

in the war at Ramoth-Gilead against

Hazael King of Syria.

When Joram left after the battle because of his wound King Ahaziah also left, went to his home in Jerusalem and then up to Jezreel to check on Joram's recovery.

With both of these kings in one place the time was right for God to take vengeance upon these evil descendants of Ahab and Jezebel.





Elisha the prophet sent a man to Ramoth-Gilead to anoint **Jehu** as King of Israel and to order him to kill Joram and Ahaziah.

Joram King of Israel & Ahaziah King of Judah were here in Jezreel.

Jehu captain of the Israelite army was in Ramoth when Elisha's messenger anointed him.





SPECIAL NOTE:

Jehu was not from a royal family. He was simply a captain in Israel's army.

Jehu's father's name was **Jehoshaphat** but he was not the **Jehoshaphat** that was King of Judah.

There were two Jehoshaphats—

Jehoshaphat the **son of Nimshi** was **Jehu's** father and Jehoshaphat the **son of Asa** was a King of Judah.

KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-879
Joash	879-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amon	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoahaz	610
Jehoiakim	610-599
Jehoiachin	599
Zedekiah	599-588

See: II Kings 9:2, 14 and I Kings 15:24



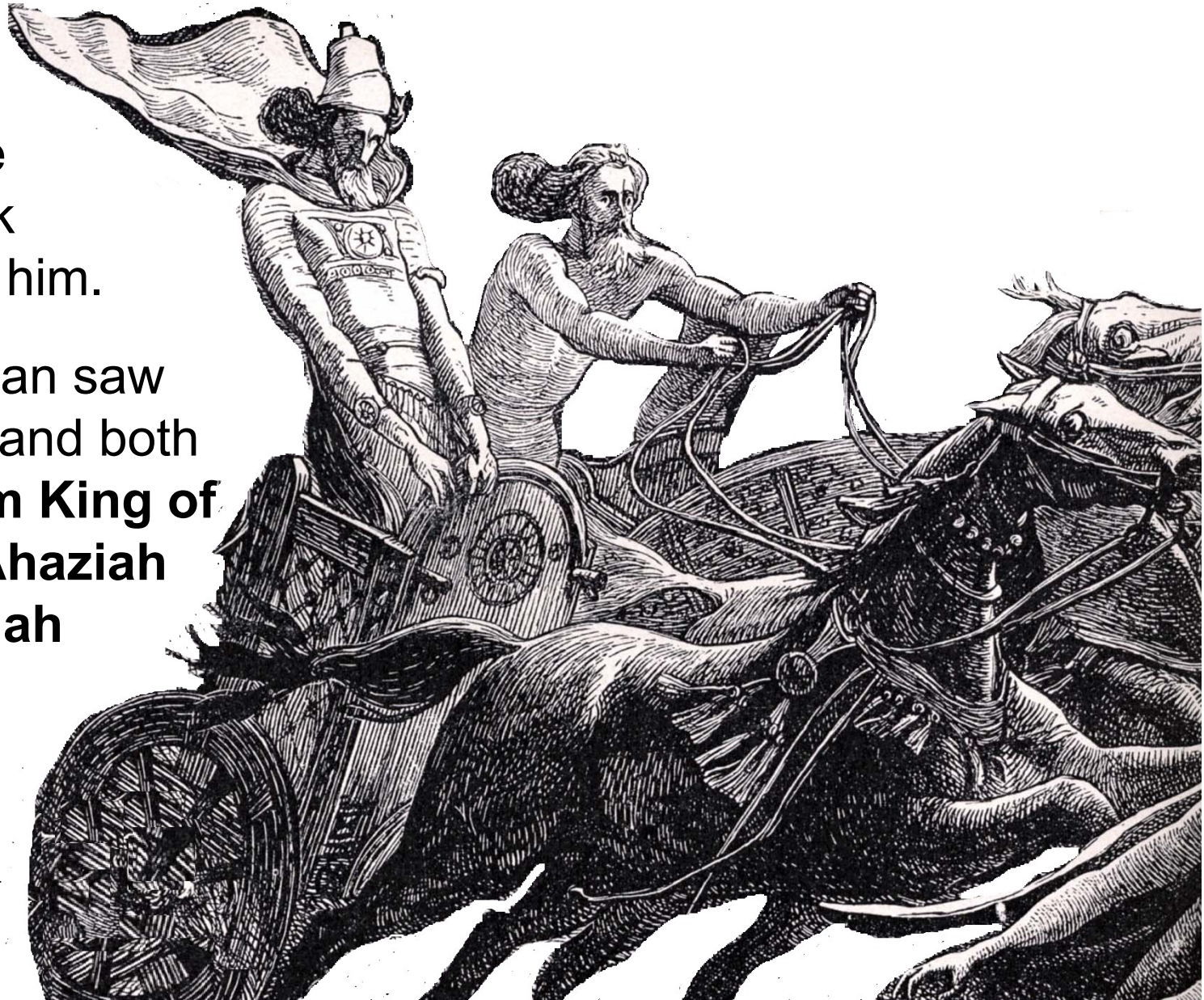
THE TEXT

II Kings 9:1, 6, 7

“¹And Elisha the prophet called one of the children of the prophets, and said unto him, Gird up thy loins, and take this box of oil in thine hand, and go to Ramothgilead . . . ⁶ And he arose . . . and he poured the oil on his [Jehu’s] head, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I have anointed thee king over the people of the LORD, even over Israel. ⁷**And thou shalt smite the house of Ahab thy master, that I may avenge the blood of my servants the prophets, and the blood of all the servants of the LORD, at the hand of Jezebel.”**

Jehu drove his chariot furiously to carry out the dreadful task entrusted to him.

The watchman saw him coming and both kings, **Joram King of Israel** and **Ahaziah King of Judah** drove their chariots out against him.



THE TEXT

II Kings 9

“²³ And it came to pass, when **Joram** saw **Jehu**, that he said, Is it peace, **Jehu**? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many? ²³ And **Joram** turned his hands, and fled, and said to **Ahaziah**, There is treachery, O **Ahaziah**. ²⁴ And **Jehu** drew a bow with his full strength, and smote **Jehoram** between his arms, and the arrow went out at his heart, and he sunk down in his chariot . . . ²⁷ But when **Ahaziah the king of Judah** saw this, he fled by the way of the garden house. And **Jehu** followed after him, and said, Smite him also in the chariot. And they did so at the going up to Gur, which is by Ibleam. And he fled to Megiddo, and died there.”



Thus began Jehu's assassination of the house of Ahab.

Next he killed Ahab's wife, Jezebel, and II Kings 10 continues his bloody trail for he killed . . .

- 42 of Ahaziah's brethren
- 70 sons of Ahab
- Any and all who were kinsmen of Ahab
- All Ahab's great men and close acquaintances
- Finally he locked up those who served Baal in their own temple and massacred them.





The murder of Ahab's sons was especially gruesome. Jehu had them decapitated, and their heads placed in baskets which were laid in heaps at the gate of Jezreel.

II Kings 10:7-8

“⁷And it came to pass, when the letter came to them, that they took the king's sons, and slew seventy persons, and put their heads in baskets, and sent him them to Jezreel.

⁸ And there came a messenger, and told him, saying, They have brought the heads of the king's sons. And he said, Lay ye them in two heaps at the entering in of the gate until the morning.”

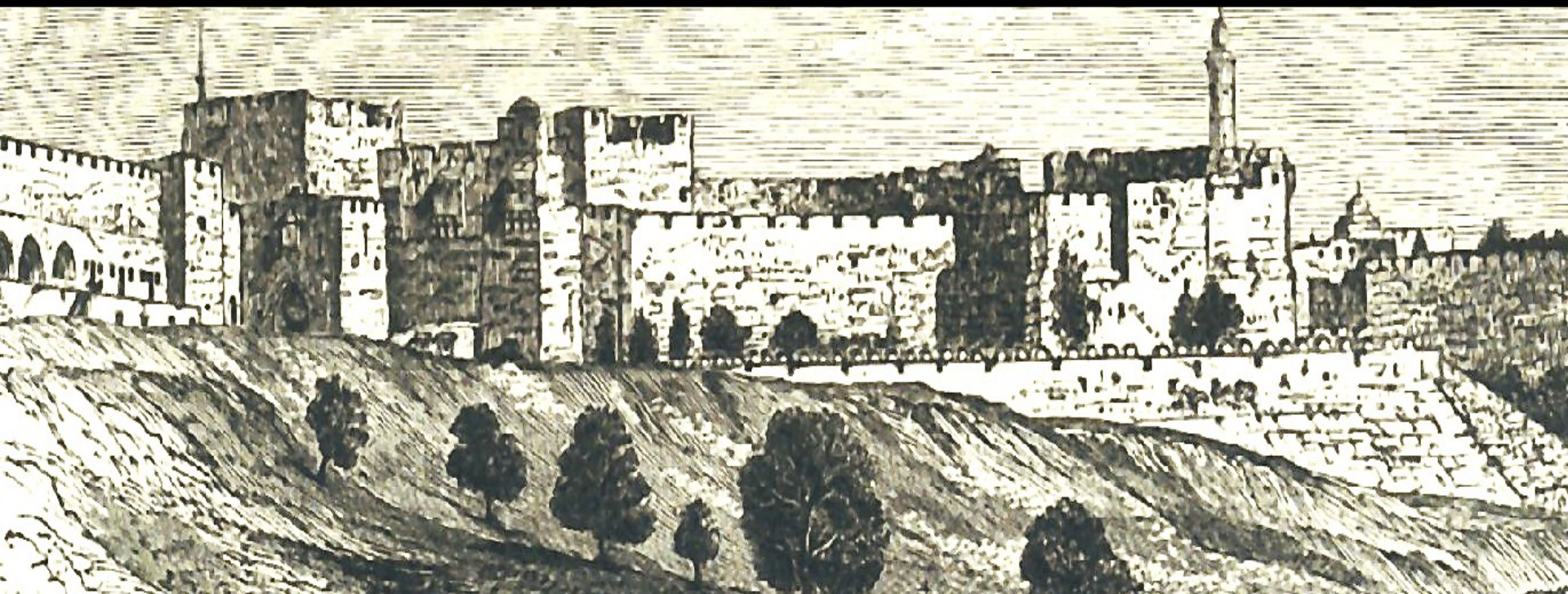


Thus, Jehu destroyed the house of Ahab and “destroyed Baal out of Israel.” However, he did not remove the golden calves that were in Dan and Bethel and did not “walk in the law of the Lord,” so the nation of Israel continued in sin during his reign of 28 years (II Kings 10:29-36).

The nation of Judah fared no better following the assassination of the house of Ahab for Ahab’s daughter, Athaliah took the throne.



The assassinations **Jehu** carried out were all in the land of Israel, so though **Athaliah** was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel she was safe from the sword of **Jehu**; behind the walls of Jerusalem.



KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam

Abijah

Asa

Jehoshaphat

Jehoram – Athaliah's husband

Ahaziah – Jehoram & Athaliah's son

Athaliah – Jehoram's wife and daughter
of Ahab King of Israel.

Joash

Amaziah

Uzziah

Jotham

Ahaz

Hezekiah

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Jehoahaz

Jehoiakim

Jehoiachin

Zedekiah

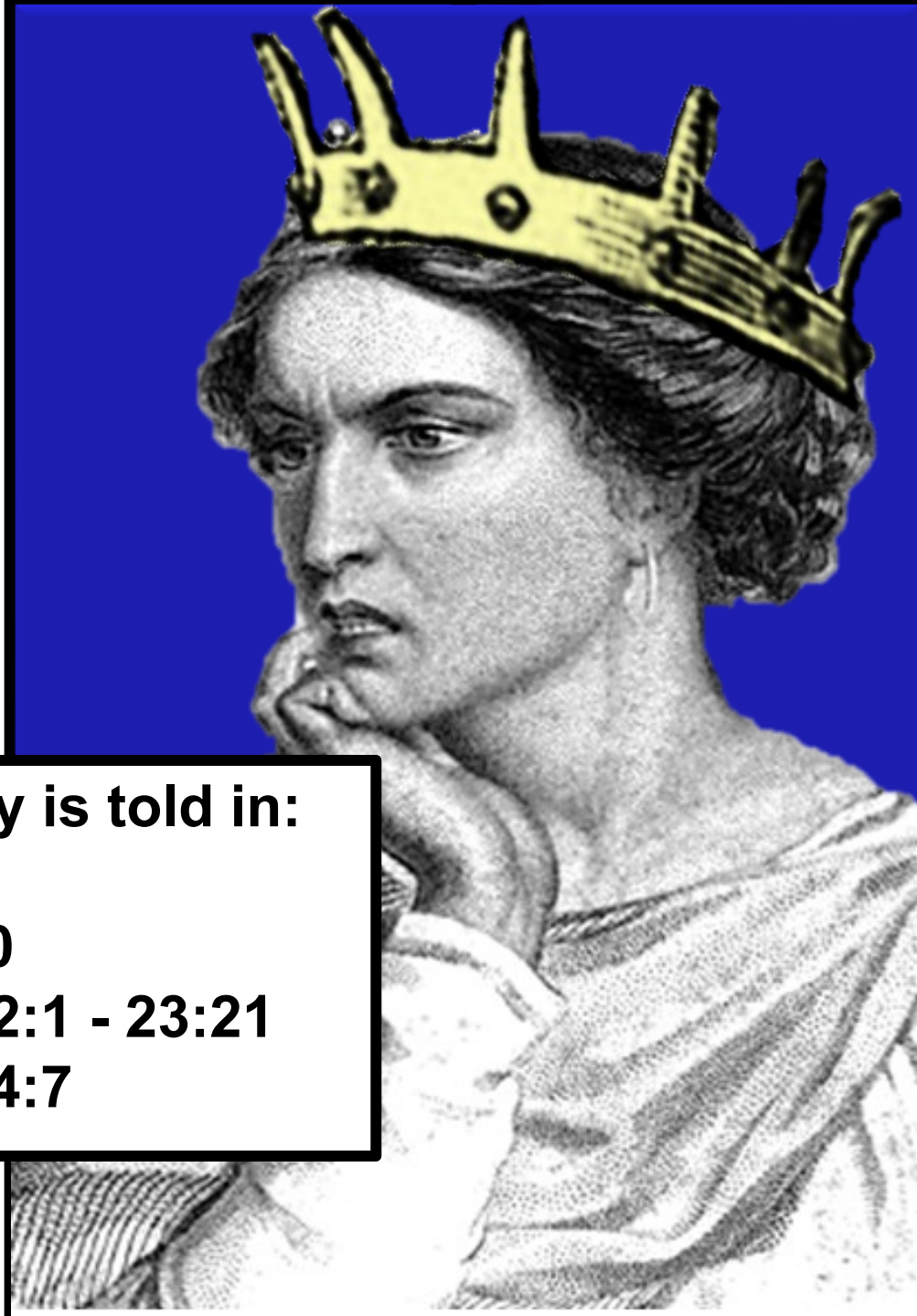
Athaliah's story is told in:

II Kings 8:26

II Kings 11:1-20

II Chronicles 22:1 - 23:21

II Chronicles 24:7



When Athaliah saw that her son, King Ahaziah, was dead “she arose and destroyed all the seed royal” (II Kings 11:1) and ruled over the nation of Judah herself.

So Jehu ruled over Israel and Athaliah over Judah.

KINGS OF ISRAEL

Jeroboam	975-954
Nadab	954-953
Baasha	953-930
Elah	930-929
Zimri	929
Omri	929-918
Ahab	918-897
Ahaziah	897-896
Joram	896-884
Jehu	884-856
Jehoram	856-841
Jehoahaz	841-825
Jehoiakim	784-781
Jehoiachin	597-598
Zedekiah	597-586



KINGS OF JUDAH

Rehoboam	975-958
Abijah	958-955
Asa	955-914
Jehoshaphat	914-892
Jehoram	892-884
Ahaziah	885
Athaliah	885-879
Joash	879-839
Amaziah	839-810
Uzziah	810-758
Jotham	758-742
Ahaz	742-726
Hezekiah	726-698
Manasseh	698-643
Amos	643-641
Josiah	641-610
Jehoiachin	610
Zedekiah	597-586



VOCABULARY:

Fratricide is the crime of killing one's own brother.

King Jehoram, was guilty of this for he murdered his six brothers after taking the throne of Judah.

Prolicide is the crime of killing one's own offspring.

Athaliah was guilty of this when she killed all the "seed royal."

These two wicked people coveted power more than they valued their own blood relations.

The “seed royal” that Athaliah murdered were her own grandchildren; the closest relations left to inherit the throne.

She was not successful in killing all of them, for her daughter, Jehosheba, took King Ahaziah’s newly orphaned son, Joash, and hid him.



This genealogical chart helps explain that Jehosheba was Jehoshaphat's granddaughter, Jehoram and Athaliah's daughter, Ahaziah's sister, and Joash's aunt.

GENEALOGY: **1**Jehoshaphat

2Jehoram

+Athaliah— daughter of Ahab & Jezebel

3Ahaziah

4Joash

3Jehosheba

Numbers indicate generations and the + indicates a spouse.

NOTE: Athaliah's brother was also named Ahaziah. She obviously named her son after her brother. Her brother was a King of Israel and her son was a King of Judah.

In II Kings 11 the story continues . . .

Jehosheba hid her nephew, Joash, and his nurse in a bedchamber in “the house of the Lord” (the temple). Jehosheba was married to Jehoiada, a priest, who had access to this safe place; a place that Athaliah would likely never search.



It was the providence of God that this child's life was spared, for God had promised David that his seed would continue, that he would establish his kingdom forever.

II Samuel 7:12-16

“¹² And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.

¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

Matthew Henry made a beautiful comment in his commentary about this promise. He compares the church (a spiritual seed) to the rescue of this small child, Joash, who was saved when Jehosheba and Jehoiada hid him in the temple in Jerusalem.



“Thus to the son of David will God, according to his promise, secure a spiritual seed, which, though sometimes reduced to a small number, brought very low, and seemingly lost, will be perpetuated to the end of time, hidden sometimes and unseen, but hidden in God’s pavilion and unhurt.”—Matthew Henry

Joash was hidden in the temple for 6 years.

Joash was only about one year old when this happened; too young to reign. So, his aunt and uncle hid him for six years while his grandmother, Athaliah reigned over Judah.



During that time Jehosheba's husband, Jehoiada the priest, secretly revealed young Joash to the Levites, rulers, guards, and captains of the land, and they were all convinced that Joash should be King of Judah for he was a descendant of King David.



II Kings 11

Jehoiada the priest laid out a plan for the guards and captains to protect Joash.

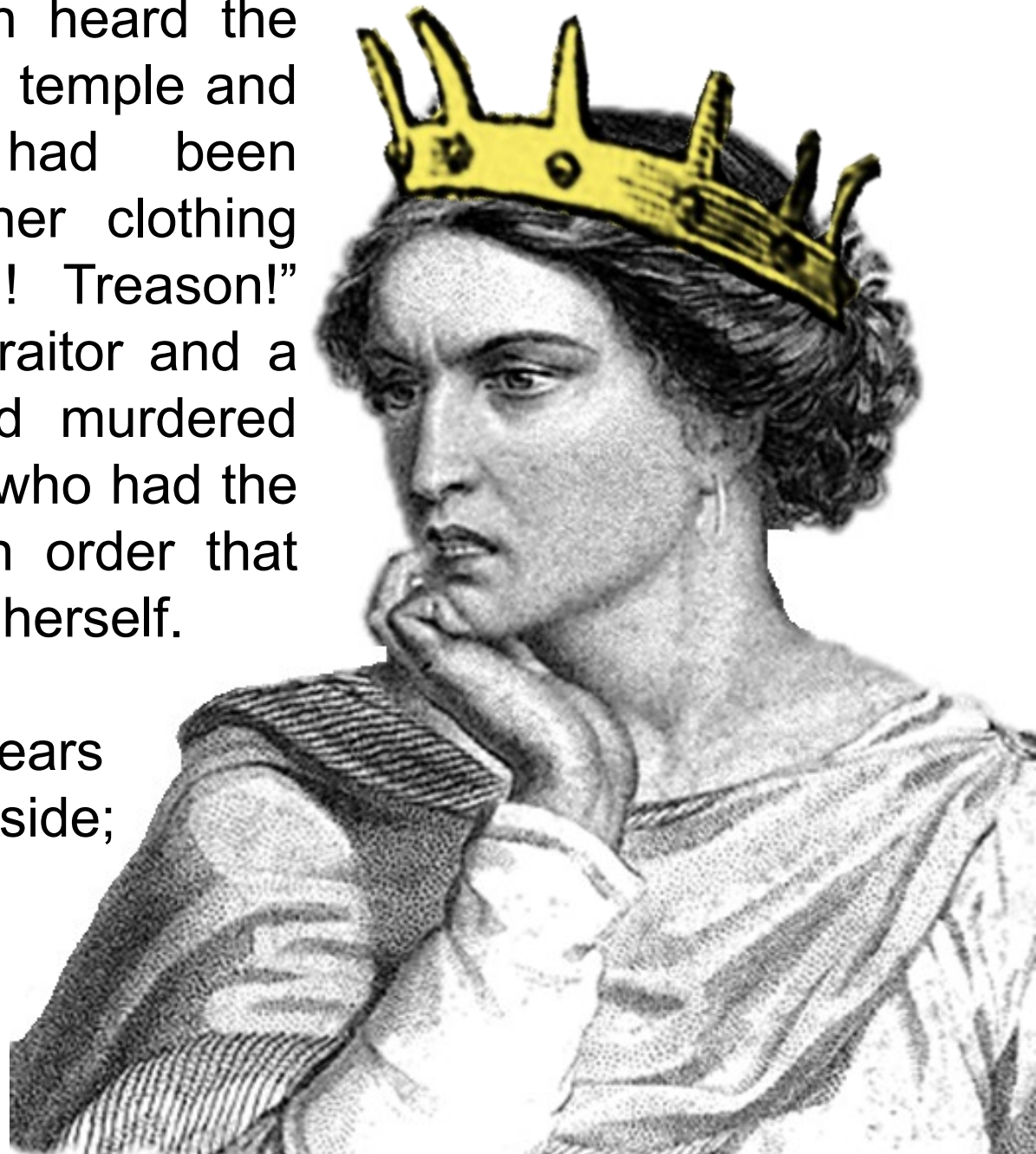
They armed themselves with David's swords and shields that were stored in the temple.

And on the Sabbath, they brought Joash out and **crowned him King of Judah** and anointed him and shouted, "God save the king." The people blew trumpets and the singers sang. There was great rejoicing.



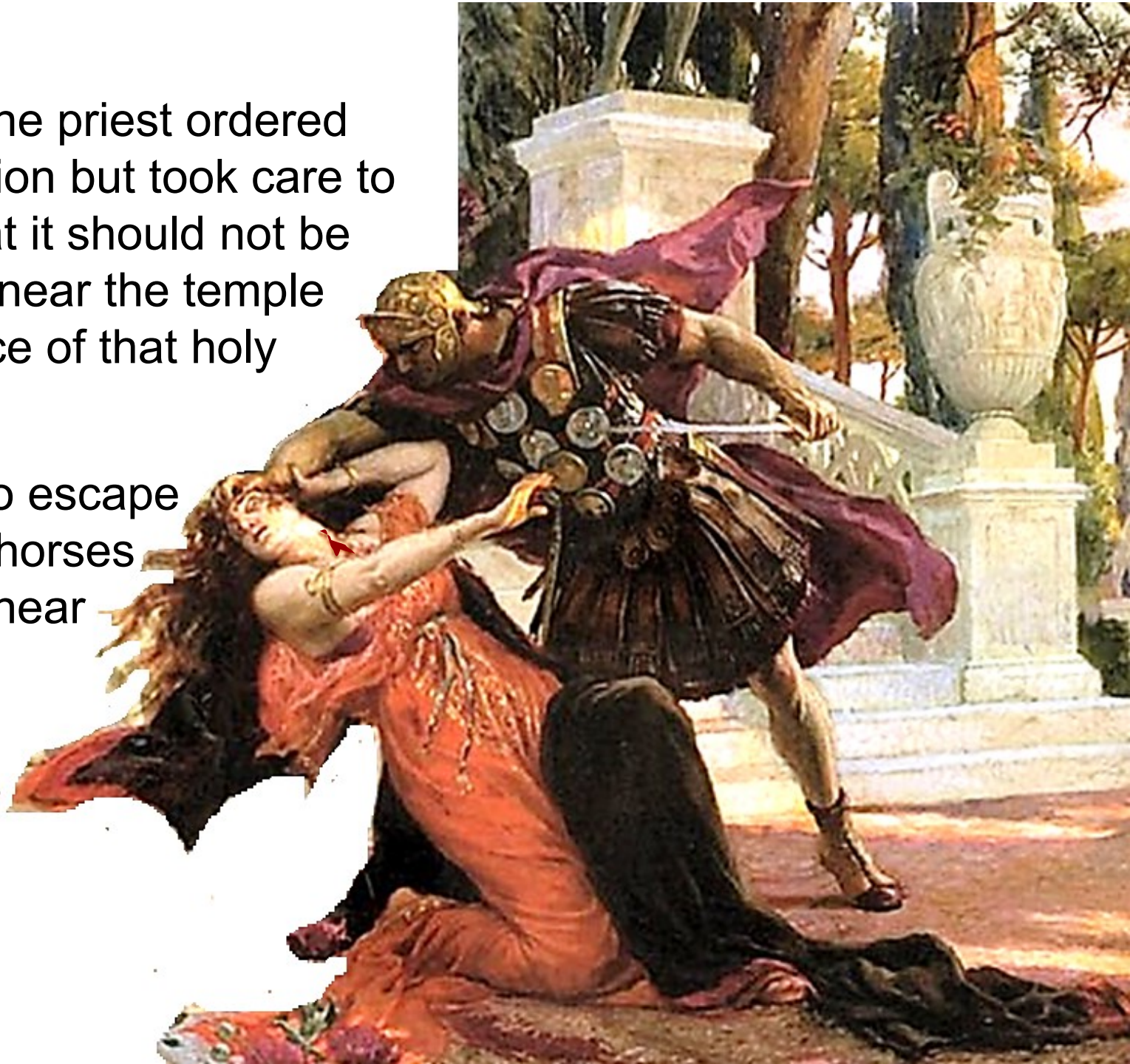
When Queen Athaliah heard the noise, she went to the temple and saw that Joash had been crowned. She rent her clothing and yelled, "Treason! Treason!" though *she* was the traitor and a murderer for she had murdered her own family, those who had the right to the throne, in order that she could secure it for herself.

She had ruled for six years yet had no one on her side; so evil was her reign.

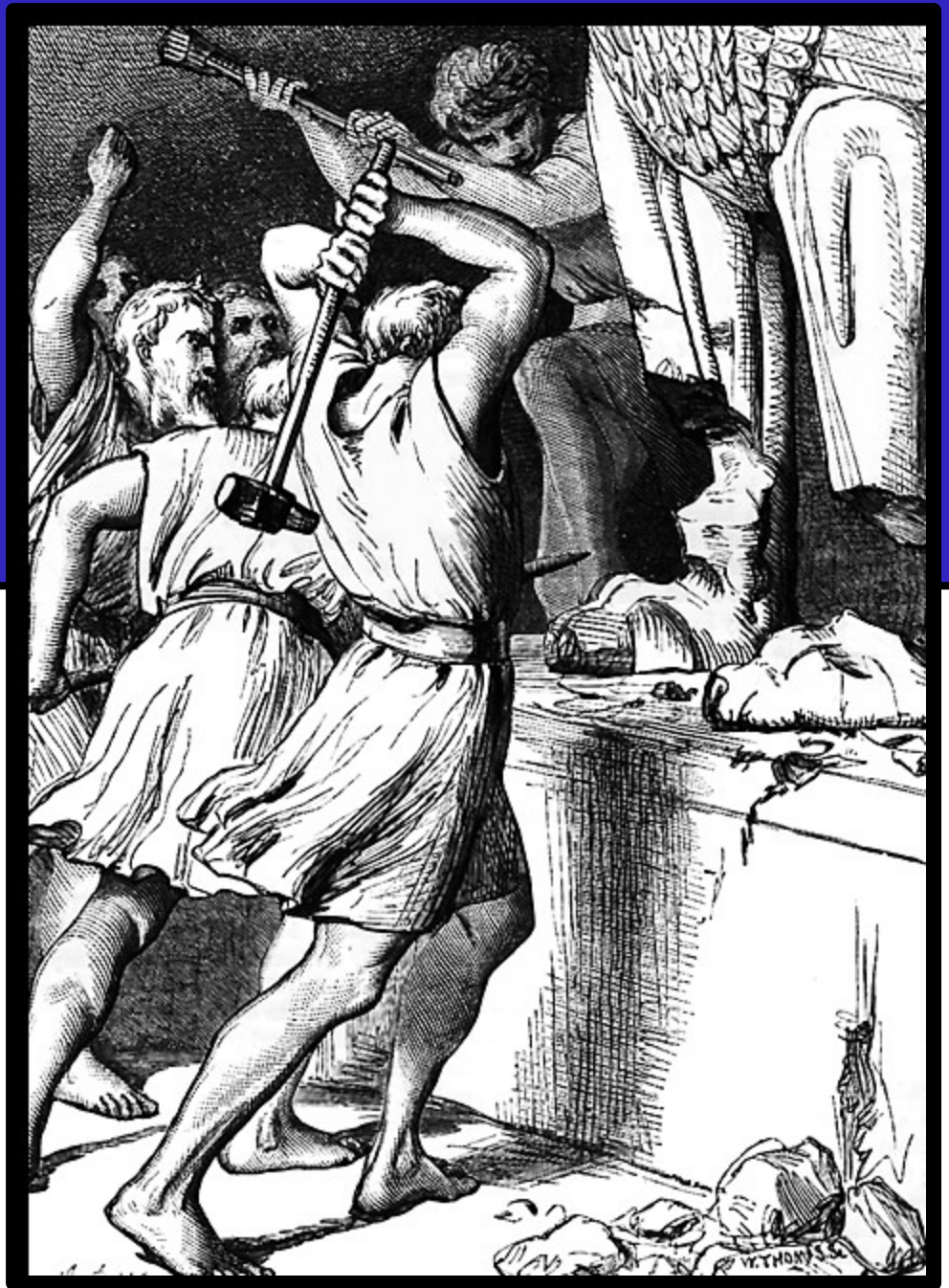


Jehoiada the priest ordered her execution but took care to instruct that it should not be done in or near the temple in reverence of that holy place.

She tried to escape where the horses were kept near the king's house and that is where she was slain.



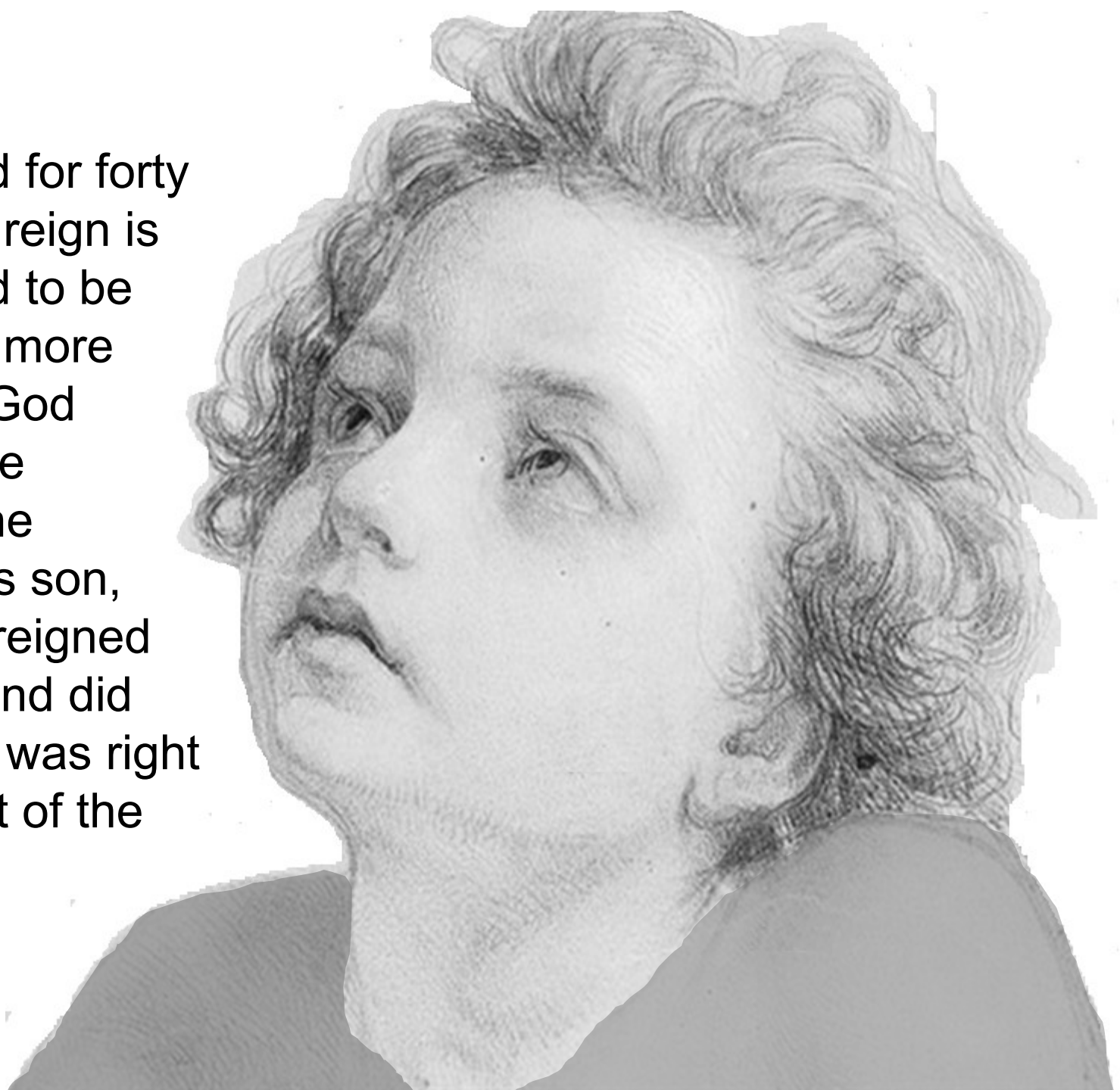
The priest Jehoiada saw to it that immediately the temple of Baal was torn down with all its altars and the priests of Baal were slain.



Joash (after he becomes King he is called Jehoash) was seven years old when he began to reign (II Kings 11:21).



He reigned for forty years. His reign is considered to be one of the more faithful to God because he repaired the temple. His son, Amaziah, reigned 29 years and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord also.



THE END