II Kings 11

Review…

- **I Kings 10 – King Jehu of Israel…**
  - Ahab had 70 sons / grandsons living in the city of Samaria…
    - Jehu wrote a letter to the leaders of the city – CHALLENGING them…
    - Pick the best of the 70 sons to be your king – and prepare to be attacked…
    - But the city was paralyzed with fear – Jehu had already killed two Kings…
    - So Jehu had them bring the heads of all 70 sons / grandsons to him!
    - Then he killed the relatives of Ahab / his officials / personal friends / even his priests!
  - When Jehu arrived in Samaria – he called a meeting of all the worshipers of Baal…
    - They came from every corner of Israel – they filled the temple of Baal…
    - Jehu gave the command to kill all of them – then he tore down their temple…
    - He made the temple into a public toilet – removing any trace of Baal worship!
  - Jehu had done well in quickly destroying the evil family of Ahab…
    - He had done well in completely removing all of the worship of Baal…
    - As a result God promised to let his children sit on the throne to the 4th generation!
    - But because he refused to remove the Golden calves of Jeroboam in Bethel and Dan…
    - The result was Israel began to be reduced in size – conquered by other nations!

Choosing a Godly leader … (*3 things*)

- **1st – The reign of Queen Athaliah… vs. 1-3** Read: II Kings 11:1-3
  - 1st – Queen Athaliah was the daughter of Ahab – married to King Jehoram…… vs. 1
    - She was a wicked woman – directly influenced by her evil mother Jezebel…
      - She married Jehoram in Judah – the son of Godly King Jehoshaphat…
      - She led him to rebel against the Lord – encouraging Baal worship in Judah…
      - She even taught her son Athaliah to worship Baal – which is why Jehu killed him!
    - When Athaliah heard Ahaziah was dead – she set out killed all of the royal heirs…
      - Meaning she put to death all of her other sons / and her grandsons…
      - There are a couple of possible reasons for this homicidal act…
      - It is possible she was trying to prevent Jehu from coming to attack Judah…
      - If she wiped out all the descendants of Ahab – it might keep Jehu away…
      - But it is more likely Ahaziah killed all the royal heirs – so she could take the throne!

- You can tell a lot about the character of a leader – by looking at their family!
  - If a potential leader has raised children who are wicked /out of control…
  - If they are willing to 'sacrifice' / attack their family for political gain…
  - Then they are likely a VERY poor choice to lead – do not vote for them!
  - If they cannot take care of their own family – how can he take care for a community!

- 2nd - Athaliah became the first – and only – woman to ever rule in Judah / Israel…
  - Although Athaliah was a wicked woman – her rule is notable…
    - Because without a King to rule the nation – it was permissible for a woman to lead…
    - Which brings up a very controversial question - can a woman be a leader...
    - It turns out it depends on where - in society or in the church...
    - We do see examples in the Bible - Deborah – that show us women CAN lead!
  - Can a woman be a pastor - a hotly debated issue in the church today...
    - God does not work in chaos - God is God of order - He works through structure...
    - Imagine if everyone just did what they wanted to in church…
    - No one to organize the time to have Bible Study / no one leading the service…
    - Imagine a Sunday service were everyone was trying to share all at once…
    - There would be chaos - and God cannot work effectively in chaos!
    - **I Corinthians 14:33** - "God is not the author of confusion but of peace..."
  - Part of that order/structure - is a hierarchy of authority within the church...
    - **I Corinthians 11:3** - "The head of Christ is God, the head of every man is Christ, and the head of woman is man."
    - Women can serve in the church - Phoebe is called a 'deacon' - **Romans 16:1-2**…
    - Women should teach women and children – **Titus 2:4** - but not men - **I Timothy 2:13**
    - Therefore within the church – ONLY a man is allowed to be a pastor…
    - This has nothing to do with ability or intellect - it is simply about structure!
  - Is a woman serving as a pastor sin…
    - My sister is an ordained pastor – and teaches men in church services…
    - I do not agree with it – I think it is contrary to what the Bible teaches…
    - But I would not go so far as to say that it is sin – it is a 'minor difference'…
    - All believers are to agree on the essential doctrines of the Bible - salvation in Jesus!
    - On non-essential issues believers are to agree to disagree / not cause division...
    - Focus on the major issues - overlook the minor less important ones!
    - The triune nature of God / salvation only through the cross of Jesus - absolute!
    - Church on Sundays / praise songs or hymns / women pastors - agree to disagree!
  - But men are not greater/more important than women - **Galatians 3:28**…
    - Ultimately we are all equal under God - all sinners saved by the same grace!
    - God assigns positions for each one of us within the body of Christ...
    - WE give those positions value - WE elevate one above another...
    - But God does not say that one position is greater than another - all are equal!
  - The better question might be asked – should a woman lead…
    - **Titus 2:4** – "Train the younger women to love their husbands… take care of their home…"

        - The first ministry of any mother is to take care of the home / raise the family…
        - Too often – women can neglect their children for the sake of things…
        - Kids do not need the latest gadgets / they do not need fancy clothes…
        - Kids need a mom who is there to teach them how to follow Jesus Christ!
        - It is the curse of the husband to have to work / lead – **Genesis 3:17**
        - Why would women want to have to bear two curses – pain in childbearing and work!
    - 3rd – Jehosheba – the sister of Ahaziah – hid his infant son Joash… vs. 2
        - Jehosheba was not the daughter of Queen Athaliah – she had a different mother…
            - Therefor she did not have the same evil influence growing up…
            - It made her bold enough to defy the queen – and hide the heir to the throne!
        - While are called to be obedient to the government – **Romans 13:1**
            - Some Christians take that to mean we just to accept whatever a government does…
            - But we are not to idly stand by and do nothing when faced with evil leaders…
            - Bad people are allowed to rule unchecked – cause good people do nothing…
            - When a government stops listening to and following the Word of God…
            - It is our responsibility as Christians – to peacefully stand up to the government!
    - 4th - The infant was hidden in the Temple from Athaliah for 6 years… vs. 3
        - The temple made the perfect hiding spot – because Athaliah NEVER went there!
            - It was also the perfect place to train up a Godly King to lead Israel…
            - Joash had a priest as his teacher – and the presence of the Lord as his guide!
        - How can we help children who do not have Godly parents…
            - Bring them to church – so they can be have Godly men as their teachers…
            - Being them into the presence of the Lord so they can learn to follow Him!

- **2ND – THE REVOLT OF JEHOIADA THE PREIST… VS. 4-16** READ: II KINGS 11:4-16
    - 1st – In the 7th year of the reign of Athaliah… vs. 4-11
        - Jehoiada the priest called for the commanders of Israel…
            - He made them take an oath there in the Temple – then showed them Joash…
            - He explained to them that Athaliah did not have a valid claim to the throne…
            - Not because she was a woman – but because she was not in the line of David!
            - Looking to the Word Jehoiada showed - Joash should be the King of Judah!
            - **II Chronicles 23:3** – "The LORD has promised a descendant of David will be our king."
            - When it comes to picking leaders – people tend to get very political…
            - They want to argue about financial policies / and party affiliations…
            - But when we look at who to choose to lead a nation – we need to look to the Word!
            - Because the only man fit to lead – is a man who is devoted to God!
            - **Proverbs 29:2** - "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice."
        - Jehoiada choose the Sabbath day to start the rebellion…
            - No one would notice the large gathering of people in the Temple…
            - He then divided the Levites and Temple guards into several different groups…

- Some of them would guard the palace – the majority would guard the new King…
- He armed all the men with weapons from the time of David stored in the Temple!
- Many people argue that politics and religion should not cross paths…
- When you go to church – talk about the Bible – do not talk about elections…
- But the church is the perfect place to 'equip' the people with knowledge…
- Who are the candidates who are devoted to the Lord – that will stand up for God!

○ 2nd – Jehoiada brought our Joash – and placed a crown on his head… vs. 12

▪ The very first thing the priest did was hand the new King a copy of the Bible…

- **Deuteronomy 17:19** – "A king must always keep this copy of the law with him and read it daily as long as he lives."
- With the Bible in hand - Jehoiada anointed Joash as the King of Judah…
- The people immediately began to clap their hands and shout out for joy…
- Because Judah was no longer in the hands of a cruel politician…
- It was again being led by a man with a Bible / anointed by the Lord!

▪ Do not trust in men who follow the wisdom of the world – their own ideas...

- If a leader is following the example of the world – then he is not listening to God...
- He becomes a leader who is tossed about by the ideas of men – no direction...
- Look for a leader who takes the time to be in the Bible EVERY day!
- A Godly leader listens to the Lord – and is directed in his decisions by the Lord!

○ 3rd – When Athaliah heard the noise – she ran to the Temple… vs. 13-16

▪ When she arrived she saw Joash – crowned as the new King…

- She cried out 'TREASON' – but it was too little to late…
- She was taken out of the Temple – and executed by the gate to the Palace!

▪ Funny how people tend to run to the 'Temple' – when it is too late…

- It is funny sometime to see what it takes to get someone to come to church…
- It is usually not when things are going really well in their lives…
- More often than not it is when they get sick / no money / marriage troubles…
- Do not wait until your life is falling apart to come to church…
- Better to come to church now – so that your life does not fall apart!

- **3RD – KING JOASH OF JUDAH… VS. 17-21** READ: II KINGS 11:17-21

○ 1st – Jehoiada made a covenant with the Lord… vs. 17

▪ The covenant was that the King and the people – would follow the Lord…

- It was a covenant of repentance – because Judah had been lost for 16 years…
- Through the reigns of Jehoram / Ahaziah / and Athaliah…
- The nation had lost its way – and now they were ready to come back!

▪ God loves us very much – that He warns us to stay close to Him...

- But our problem is we like to sin – and sin separates us from God...
- Its easy to get distracted – see something pretty in the world and wander off…

- We end up in sin - get lost - and do not know how to get back to God...
- Yet Jesus is always right there looking for us – He is never far away...
- The moment we turn around – He is always ready to receive us again...
- No matter how long we have been lost – or how many times we make mistakes!

- 2nd – The people went over to the temple of Baal… vs. 18
  - They demolished the altars – killed the priest – and tore down the temple…
    - Because it was not enough to say they wanted to come back to God…
    - They wanted to show the Lord their repentance – by removing the sin!
  - It is easy to say to God we are sorry for our sin...
    - We can say to God we are sorry for spreading gossip…
    - But if the next day we run to hang out at the store again – just to listen…
    - If we make no effort to remove the sin from our life – did we really repent…
    - Repentance is more than just words – it is taking action to keep from sinning again!
- 3rd – The people led King Joash to the Palace… vs. 19-21
  - He was seated on the Royal throne of David – and the people rejoiced!
  - Joash was only 7 years old when he was anointed as King – but he was a Godly King…
  - So for the first time in almost 20 years – there was peace in the Land!
  - If you are here this evening – and you know you are lost in some sin…
  - And your life is full of turmoil – you have no peace…
  - Know that there can be no peace in our lives – apart from Jesus Christ...
  - But the good news is – if we repent – He is more than willing to receive us…
  - So that we can – perhaps for the first time in years – have true peace!