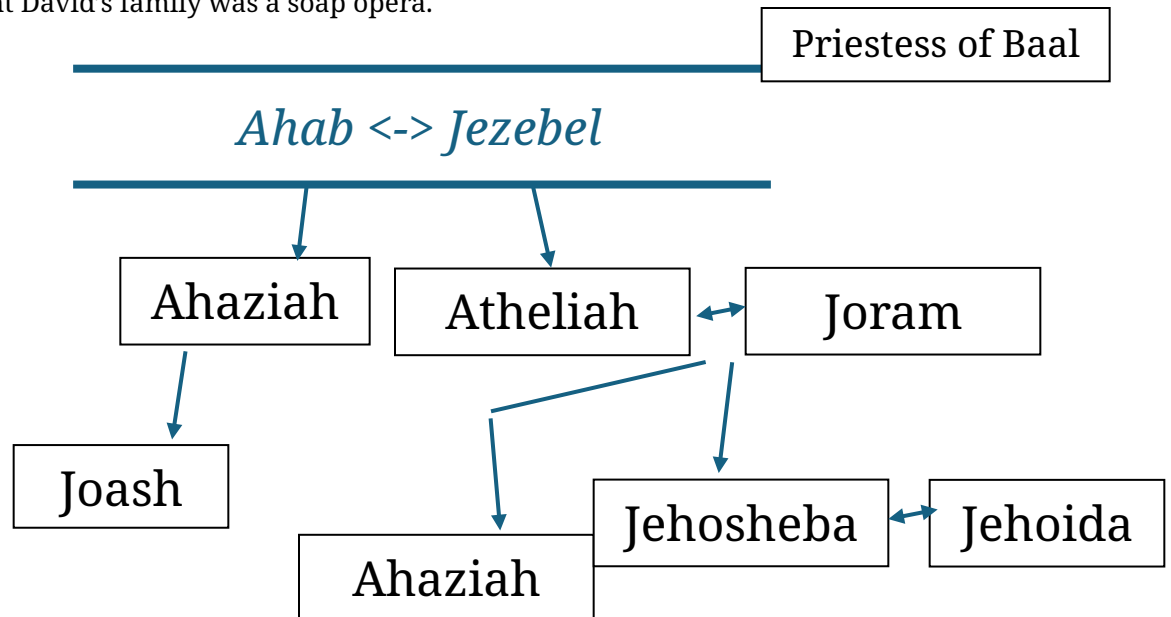


Game of Thrones

2 Kings 11 and 2 Chronicles 22

And we thought David's family was a soap opera.



Cast of Characters

Ahab and Jezebel – in absentia.

Note: Jezebel was a Sidonian princess and priestess of Baal.

Ahaziah (The first one seen) – (Yahweh has grasped) son of Ahab and Jezebel

Athaliah – (Yahweh is exalted) (Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel and therefore Ahaziah's full sister)

Ahaziah (Yahweh has grasped) (second person of this name) – son of Athaliah and Jehoram (Joram) king of Judah

Jehosheba – (Yahweh is an oath) daughter of Jehoram. Sister of Ahaziah wife of Jehoiada

Jehoiada (Yahweh knows) – High Priest. Lives to 130. Makes the following reformations.

1. Protects Joash in temple after Jehosheba whisks him out of trouble.
2. Overthrew Athaliah with a coalition of Levites (remember their history) and other leaders. Ordered execution of Athaliah.
3. Repaired the temple during the early reign of Joash

If the data and my addition is accurate Johoiada was 83 when he helped rescue and mentor Joash.

Joash (*God has given or fire of Jehovah*)– Son of Ahaziah Jehosheba's brother.

Cultural Notes

1. To understand the Hebrew readers, it might be helpful to remember that they are normally seeing actions as playing out on two levels: between the gods of the heavens and Yahweh/ and on earth.
2. It is very rare (I can't remember where else) that a member of a royal family is married to a member of the priesthood, much less the high priest.
3. Unusual to make oath of allegiance in The Lord's Temple.
4. It is unusual to have the same guards protect both the king and the Lord's temple.
5. King David's spears and shields were kept in the temple as consecrated historic items.

6. Point of View: Chronicles is written from by, for, and from the point people returning from Babylon and not wanting a repeat.
7. Traditionally it seems to have been prophets that poured oil on the king.
8. Trumpets served religious, military, and ceremonial roles. They could serve as an alarm to rally troops, initiate battle, and declare victory. The trumpets used in the coronation of Joah were likely the ceremonial silver ones (chatsoterah) used for national ceremonies, celebrations and proclaiming kings.

Linguistic Notes: (For Steve: from the NET)

1. Vs 1 – arose or embarked on a campaign to....
2. Vs. 4 – The Carians appear to be a bodyguard – probably of foreigners.

This week, I will tour guide a little bit before we get to our questions...and of course your thought-provoking discourse.

Obviously, we see and think about these times from our own perspective. Just as an exercise, you might find it interesting to think about how you would see these events if you were living in Israel.

Questions

1. What do you think were the mix of motives for Athaliah's decision to murder the rest of the royal line?
2. How do you think having a mother who was a priestess of Baal and what it meant to worship Baal affected her state of mind?
3. What would have been your decision? Why?
4. What do you think led Jehosheba to decide to save Joash? What do you imagine affected her decision to lead a very different life than her brother?
5. What do you make of the fact that she is married to the high priest?

6. When you read 2 Chronicles 22 do you see any differences or a place where there might be a different feel than the text in 2 Kings.
7. Both texts mention Joash was hid in the room where the bed covers were stored. Can you think of any reason why this would have been worth mentioning?
8. What was Jehoiada political statement by using the Carians **and** the royal bodyguard.
9. What do you think were the mix of reasons Jehoiada held his meetings in the temple?
10. Why would Jehoiada give the officers of the units the weapons of David?
11. Verse 11 – what would that have felt like to you if you saw it?
12. Verses 13 and 14 – **No surprise to anyone reading this – I see these verses as a chance for Athaliah to repent – (much like some of the texts in Revelation – but that’s for a bit down our road 😊)** What do you think she could have done to repent? Why do you think she didn’t.
13. Why was she not executed in the temple?
14. Given the object lessons of the temple services – how do you see the significance of where she was executed? **I for sure do...but then I live in metaphor land.**
15. Vs. 17 - why do you think the covenant was constructed the way it was.
16. What are the levels of “rest” do you think the author meant?

I think these chapters are jammed packed with all kinds of metaphor and history and Hebrew object lessons. I am looking forward to ferreting them with you.

As always, I know these are not easy times on so many levels I can’t enumerate them...in the midst of “it all” I wish you gentle blessings.

Catherine